

June 1, 2011

Ms. Katherine Hart, Chair
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Re: Development of an Upper Watershed Order

Dear Chair Hart and Board Members:

We want to thank you and staff for efforts to incorporate the feedback you have received the past two years from upper watersheds as you develop the new long term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Three upper watershed groups, encompassing the northern mountain counties of Modoc, Lassen, Plumas and Sierra initiated meetings early in 2008 to begin discussions regarding how to address the clear differences of upper watershed regions from lower Central Valley agriculture.

In follow up to the April Board meeting where support was expressed for a long term program that recognizes regional agricultural differences within Region 5, our groups have contacted CVRWQCB staff at the Redding office to consider options we might have as the new Orders begin to be drafted.

Upper Feather River Watershed Group and other coalitions with upper watershed regions have been members of the larger Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC). Goose Lake Coalition has been an independent coalition. Based on common interests and agricultural practices of our areas and what we have learned in the evolution of the ILRP, we wish to work with the Regional Board to pursue an order that is specific to the upper watershed areas, whether that is through a stand-alone order, a Sacramento Valley sub-order, or in some other form. Regardless of the structural approach, we want to continue to support the SVWQC and coordinate with your staff to ensure that future actions are commensurate with the lack of threat to water quality from our agricultural operations in the upper watersheds and similar foothill regions.

Respectfully,



Russell Reid, Chairman
Upper Feather River Watershed Group



Herb Jasper, President
Goose Lake Coalition

cc: Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer
Joe Karkoski, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
Bruce Houdesheldt, Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition